

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SITUATION REPORT #03
Water Supply Contingency Plan Implementation-2000
Thursday, November 1, 2000 – 1400 Hours

*This report contains the latest information. Revisions are in bold. Please refer to previous situation reports for past information.
Note: Next situation Report –November 14, 2000.*

Situation:

The District has determined that unless levels in the lake increase to near normal level by December there is a high probability that sufficient water supplies from Lake Okeechobee may not be available to meet the needs of the users who depend on the lake as the primary source for water supply.

The Governing Board declared a water shortage warning for the Indian Prairie region at the October 12, 2000 meeting. The warning calls for voluntary restrictions from water users in the affected region which is northwest of Lake Okeechobee.

The District has declared a Water Shortage Warning for users within the South Dade Miami Water Use Basin, The Water Conservation Areas/Everglades National Park Water Use Basin, The Water Conservation Area 1/C-51 Water Use Basin, the Water Conservation Area 2 Water Use Basin, the Water Conservation Area 3 Water Use Basin, the Everglades Agricultural Area Water Use Basin, the Interior Palm Beach County Water use Basin, the M Canal Water Use Basin, The Lakeshore Perimeter Water Use Basin, The St. Lucie River Water Use Basin, and The Caloosahatchee River Water Use Basin.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Short Term:

Slight showers expected early next week. Mostly sunny and mild east and west of Lake Okeechobee.

Long Term:

Increased chance of below average rainfall during the dry season, especially during the November through March period when 90% of average rainfall is expected based on historical rainfall.

WATER CONDITIONS:

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:

On average, the lakes in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and Lake Istokpoga are approximately 1-1.5 feet below their respective regulation schedules, with Lake Alligator about four feet below schedule and East Lake Tohopekaliga 2 feet above schedule. The lakes, on average are approximately one to two feet below their average stage for this time of year. Lake Alligator stage is more than 3 feet lower than average, and East Lake Toho stage is about average.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area

Lake Okeechobee **average stage is 12.04 feet NCVD**, which is about 3.5 feet below schedule and approximately 2.9 feet below average for this time of year.

Canals in the Everglades Agriculture Area are at normal wet season stages and are being operated to provide the authorized level of flood protection for the area. No regulatory releases are being made from Lake Okeechobee at this time in accordance with the Corps' operational guidelines. Because of the present lake stage, normal operational criteria requires that runoff from the C-44 basin is directed into Lake Okeechobee instead of to the St. Lucie Estuary.

Water Conservation Areas

Stages in Water Conservation Area 1 are approximately slightly above schedule and about one foot above average. Water Conservation Area 2 is about 0.9 feet below the regulation schedule and is about 0.5 feet below average for this time of year. Stages in Water Conservation Area 3 are near regulation and are about 0.3 feet above average stages at this time. **Water supply deliveries are being made from the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) to the EAA as water levels in the WCAs exceed those in the EAA. As WCA levels continue to fall, EAA irrigation will begin to come from Lake Okeechobee.**

Lower East Coast

Canal water levels along the Lower East Coast are near normal wet season stages and are being operated to provide the authorized level of flood protection for the area.

OPERATIONAL STATUS:

The District's EOC is activated to a level 2, (partial activation) for implementation of the Water Supply Contingency Plan.

TEAM REPORTS:

DISASTER ANALYSIS AND PLANNING SECTION:

Water Supply Contingency Plan Team:

- Briefed meeting of Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Advisory Committee on Contingency Plan implementation activities on 10/23.

Hydrologic Simulation Team:

- Analyzed several alternatives for Lake Okeechobee Supply Side Management.

Monitoring Network Team:

- Reviewed groundwater levels in Lower West Coast and Kissimmee Basins. Continue to monitor.

LOGISTICS/FINANCE:

Logistics:

- Completed and received approval of a Waiver of Competition for electric control systems.
- Drafted Waiver of Competition for the bioassay Lab Sample Testing.
- Drafting Scope of Work for Pump Installation Services. Awaiting final pump and bulkhead drawings from MWI, Inc.
- Issued a change order to include an 800 amp Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) for the pumps.
- Received call from DCR that contract for electrical services has been executed. Contract scheduled to arrive at the District this week.

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT COORDINATION:

- **Met with MWI to discuss their methodology for lifting (the pumps).**
- **Met with Palm Beach County permit representative to discuss the need for a permit to install the electrical control systems.**
- **Began coordination with Water Resources Operations to formulate strategy for muck fires.**
- **Met with USACE and Clewiston City Manager regarding potential navigation issues related to low water level in Lake Okeechobee waterway.**

WATER SUPPLY SECTION:

Water Conservation Team:

- **Compiling EAA water use and Lower East Coast public water supply pumpage data for the month of October for presentation before the EOC.**
- **Scheduled training/introduction session to drought media management for service center and public information staff on Wednesday, November 1, 2000. Current water storage and weather forecast data will be presented to explain what is ahead of the agency along with information on water shortage administration and media aids to help education the public on the need to conserve water.**

Lake Istokpoga Team:

- **Mailed Notice of Water shortage warning issued by Governing Board to all affected permit holders in the Lake Istokpoga Indian Prairie Basin.**
- **Stakeholders meeting held on 10/23 with agency representatives from DEP, Highlands County and the FFWCC along with citizen committees, larger water users and the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss upcoming water shortage potential and options for cleaning Lake Istokpoga during drought induced drawdown. The FFWCC identified shortfalls in funding and permitting as reason why an accelerated lake cleanup in conjunction with the drought may not be feasible.**

Modified Supply Side Management Implementation Team:

- **Focussing on evaluating the impacts of various Supply Side Management implementation lake state combinations in terms of the magnitude/duration of cutbacks generated along with the potential resulting states in Lake Okeechobee on June 1, 2001. The EOC Water Shortage Management Team presented this information to the Executive Director and will also present this information to the Governing Board.**

Lower West Coast Team:

- **Ground water level data from the Lower West Coast have shown significant declines in response to three weeks without substantial rain. Ground water levels are very low for this time of year and suggest that impacts to domestic well service may be returning. The EOC Management Team is recommending a water shortage warning be issued by the Governing Board for the Lower West Coast.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- Held conference call with service centers to coordinate requests for information and speaking engagements.
- Continuing to develop outreach materials.

OFFICE OF COUNSEL:

- Preparing Water Shortage Warning for Lower West Coast Aquifer System for November Governing Board approval.
- Assisting in procurement of FPL electrical services for forward pumps in Lake Okeechobee.

Signed: _____
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Water Resources Operations

Olivia McLean, Director of
Emergency Management

Distribution:

SFWMD Governing Board members
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Governors Office
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